

STATE OF COLORADO

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

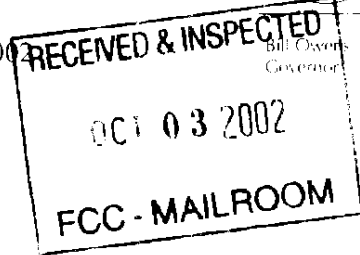
Raymond L. Gifford, Chairman
 Polly Page, Commissioner
 Jim Dyer, Commissioner
 Bruce N. Smith, Director

Department of Regulatory Agencies

M. Michael Cooke
 Executive Director



September 19, 2002



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
 Office of the Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street SW
 Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45; Colorado's Certification of Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.314: Universal Service Support for High-Cost Areas.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 10, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted the Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on reconsideration, and further notice of proposed rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 01-157, in which the FCC requires state commissions to certify annually that all rural incumbent local exchange carriers that receive federal high-cost support within the state will use such support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Pursuant to § 54.314(a), the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, on September 19, 2002, has certified **El Paso County Telephone Company** (SAC # 462187) as a rural incumbent local exchange carrier. This company has attested to the fact that it has used the federal high-cost support for the intended purposes.

Questions regarding the annual certification of this company should be directed to Mr. Bruce Smith, Director of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, or alternatively Geri Santos-Rach, Chief of Fixed Utilities, at (303) 894-2533.

Very truly yours,

Raymond L. Gifford
 Chairman

Polly Page
 Commissioner

Jim Dyer
 Commissioner

Cc: USAC
 Attention: Irene Flannery
 2120 L Street NW, Suite 600
 Washington, DC 20037

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